

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1 and 27 are currently amended and claim 28 has been added. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1, 4-5, 7-10, 12, 16-20 and 26-28 are pending, and claims 2-3, 6, 11, 13-15 and 21-25 have been canceled.

The applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 16-20.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano (US 4,823,915) in view of Takizawa (US 6,152,266). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the cable sleeve includes a spring sleeve that forms an annular space with itself, wherein at least a portion of the spring is disposed in the annular space. The office action relies on Takizawa's blocking member (24) to provide a cable sleeve that forms an annular space for a spring (26). However, the annular space is formed by a combination of the outer peripheral surface of blocking member (24) and the inner peripheral surface of the tubular casing (20), and not by the blocking member (24) itself. Takizawa neither discloses nor suggests the presently claimed structure.

Claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano in view of Takizawa and Toyomoto (US 4,066,147). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reason noted above.

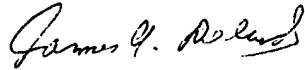
Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagano in view of Takizawa and Deligny (US 4,693,137). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reason noted above.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

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